

A Field Study at Shadow Lake Park

By Brandi Martin, Erica Parker, Leanna Lemeke, and Aubrey Burrell



Students removed bull thistle, a weed that blooms from June through September with sharp spines surrounding the flowerheads.

Shadow Lake is located in the Fairwood - Renton area of King County. It is located in a 92-acre reserve for the preservation of forest land. We arrived for our field study and we were sent out into the woods to remove holly trees. We had all kinds of equipment to use and it took a lot of strength to haul these plants away.

In our native environment, holly trees are considered an invasive tree species and if we did not go in and do what we were supposed to do the holly trees could take over and smother the native plants. In a way, we were sent out there on a mission to safeguard nature’s way of healthy growing.

The experience helped us understand more about our study of environmental science. Actually going out to the forest and doing hands-on work made our group realize that taking care of the environment is hard work.....no doubt!

We are also now aware of what plants are considered invasive, and what are native. Otherwise, if we left the forest as it was, the native plants would have all died out and it would have been now a forest of just holly trees.

It was a great experience working with professional foresters. Not only did they teach us the proper techniques of pulling invasive trees and plants, they also provided us the history of

the forest and that “little” stuff that we do, can have a great impact in the greater picture of a better earth.

For more information on Bull Thistle and other weeds, check King county’s noxious wee control program online at www.kingcounty.gov/weeds



About the Instructor *Rogelio ‘Roger’ Rigor*

A teacher with the Seattle School District, Roger has been with the Youth Source Summer project for a second consecutive year. He has been a teacher for the past 15 years with the last 12 years as a Math/Science teacher at the Seattle Public Schools’ Middle College High School (MCHS). Starting off his first year at South Seattle Community College MCHS, he spent the next 11 years at Ida B. Wells School for social justice, the University of Washington MCHS site. He will be returning to South Seattle Community College MCHS site this coming fall. Roger was born and raised in the Philippines but graduated at Western Washington University, and took his masters in Math Education at the University of Washington.

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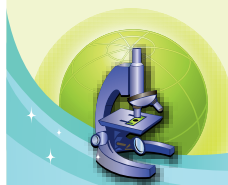
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